

Spring 2009

Dear Diablo Vista Water User,

This letter is being sent to you as a user of the Diablo Vista Water System, which provides irrigation water to the residents of Poet's Corner in Pleasant Hill. This annual letter is sent to update users on district operations.

The Diablo Vista County Water System was formed in 1950 to provide untreated canal water for irrigation to 475 homes in the area bounded roughly by Oak Park Boulevard, the Contra Costa Canal, Boyd Road and Patterson Boulevard, known locally as "Poet's Corner". In 1963, the Diablo Vista County Water District was merged with the newly incorporated City of Pleasant Hill and changed its name to Diablo Vista Water System.

The service charge for running the Water District is included as an assessment on your yearly tax bill. It is not necessary to notify the District if you are a new customer or move out of the District. Service is provided to every household. The water is purchased from Contra Costa Water District and the pump house is located adjacent to the canal trail south of Boyd Road.

The Water District budget reflects standard maintenance and operating costs, including cost for raw water, electricity and part-time salaries for a secretary, two engineers and a dispatcher. The engineers report to a three-person Advisory Board, which is appointed by the City Council. Finance is done by the City Finance Department in conjunction with the Secretary and the Board.

The Board members are:

- Steve Zalewski (Chairman)
- Jack Sciaroni
- Eric Berthold

For 2008, the Water District had a year with several major disruptions in service for our customers. These outages were due to the aging of our pipelines and pumps in addition to updates to the control system in the pump house. Several of the pumps were refurbished during the winter maintenance outage. These improvements should also allow better control of fluctuations in the system water pressure to reduce the likelihood of pipe line breaks.

To continue to keep the system running as efficiently as possible and with minimal disruptions, the Board would like to remind all customers of a couple of operational procedures and policies:

- **Operating water valves.** Please do not turn on or turn off the irrigation water to your property at the valve boxes located on your property line. The correct procedure is to call the dispatcher and request that an engineer be dispatched to do this. The number is **(925) 938-9510**. We have had several instances this past year of customers or landscapers attempting to turn off/on the water to make improvements to their private irrigation systems. This has resulted in broken valves and inconveniencing neighbors as an entire zone must be taken out of service to perform repairs. Please contact the dispatcher so the engineer can use the correct tools to operate the valves.
- **Overwatering.** Many customers have timers on their irrigation systems. As the weather conditions change, please remember to modify the frequency and duration of your

Spring 2009

watering cycles. Conserving water where possible helps everyone by reducing the costs of purchasing the water and running the pumps.

- **Public access to Water District valve boxes.** It is the property owner's responsibility to keep the Water District valve boxes clean and accessible. If you are not sure of the location of the valve box or cannot locate it, please contact us and the dispatcher will be happy to send an engineer to your home to locate the valve box for you.

DVWS has several part-time positions available. You must be a customer of the DVWS water district to be considered for a position. If interested, please contact us. The job descriptions are included below:

- **Assistant Engineer (seasonal)** - Duties include assisting the Chief Engineer and Staff Engineer in the daily maintenance of the water system and pump house. Available most nights and weekends in case emergency system shutdown and/or zone isolation is required. This position is seasonal to provide additional manpower and coverage during the peak usage times of the system
- **Secretary** – Duties include keeping the minutes from the board meetings, paying the invoices from the various utilities, and interfacing with City Hall to obtain quarterly financial updates, schedule meeting rooms for board meetings, and act as the liaison with the various city departments as necessary.

We expect to re-active the system in early April this year. However, water rationing will be implemented on May 1st. The district has been notified by Contra Costa Water that there will be a mandatory 45% reduction in our average yearly water allocation. When confirmation of this decision is received in April, we expect to send a letter to all homeowners with the water rationing policy that will be put into place on May 1st.

You can check on the status of the system and the water rationing policy at any time by calling the District phone number.

Sincerely,

DVWS Advisory Board